

News Release



ENVIRONMENT: Green light for a top partnership CROSS Keys Homes Housing Association has achieved national recognition after being named partner of choice for its work with Peterborough Environmental City Trust (PECT).

The charitable housing association, which took over Peterborough City Council's 10,000-strong housing stock last October, has been shortlisted for the prestigious iNbiz Partner of Choice award by a judging panel, including 60 housing association residents from across the country.

The award category is for a partner organisation which shows long-term commitment to partnerships and innovation, and can demonstrate results.

Judges were impressed by the way in which Cross Keys Homes has developed and continued its partnership with PECT in such a short amount of time.

Mick Leggett, Chief Executive of Cross Keys Homes, said: "We are delighted to have been shortlisted for this award after just eight months into our life as a registered social landlord.

Our partnership with PECT highlights our commitment to providing our tenants with value for money services while promoting environmentally friendly products for a better and greener city."

PECT is an independent charitable trust set up following Peterborough's designation in 1992 as one of four UK Environment Cities.

PECT has partnered with other local authorities and housing associations on the scheme. However, the partnership with Cross Keys Homes is significant because it is local to PECT.

This has provided an impetus for other significant opportunities for partnering, such as green design in new developments, a green grid partnership which provides an environmental audit of a local area, and also environmental awareness training.

PECT's Chief Executive, Sarah Fowler, said: "PECT is proud to be part of this partnership delivering a real contribution to communities and the environment. Once again, Peterborough is leading the way on environmental initiatives."

Cross Keys Homes will be attending the iNbiz Awards ceremony at Birmingham's ICC on September 15, presented by the actress and comedienne Ruby Wax.

The iNbiz Awards are held by the National Housing Federation as part of its iN business for neighbourhoods programme, which raises the profile and improves the performance of housing associations. In total, 300 entries were submitted to the awards this year from housing associations throughout the country.

Cross Keys Homes' Energy Services Scheme

CROSS Keys Homes partners PECT on a number of initiatives, the most successful of which is the 'energy services scheme' entitled Cross Keys Homes' Energy Services Scheme (CKHESS) which operates through PECT's Anglia Energy Services Scheme.

CKHESS is a scheme which offers a range of energy services designed to help reduce gas and electricity bills for Cross Keys Homes' tenants while raising money for environmental causes.

Every tenant who switches to CKHESS energy results in a donation to Cross Keys Homes to invest towards various environmental initiatives such as solar and wind powered energy. The service is already offered to new tenants and is now being rolled out to existing tenants and leaseholders.

Over the last 12 months, CKHESS has raised £24,761 from tenants making the switch.

Duncan Vessey, head of housing said: "This scheme has been very well received with more than 1,050 tenants having now switched to CKHESS.

"This service not only benefits our tenants, but also enables us to give something back to the environment.

"I am delighted that we have been shortlisted for the iNbiz partner of choice award as it shows our commitment and dedication to making a difference."

For more information contact

Mark Randall, Energy Services Scheme Manager
Phone: 01733 568532
Email: mark.randall@angliaenergyservices.co.uk

